

Brandi Baily

Sedgwick County Treasurer

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To: House Committee on Transportation:
Rep. Shannon Francis, Chair; Rep. Lance W. Neelly,
Vice Chair; Rep. Barbara Ballard; Rep. Avery Anderson;
Rep. Kenneth Collins; Rep. Leo Delperdang;
Rep. Robyn R. Essex; Rep. Dan Goddard; Rep. Nick Hoheisel; Rep. Michael Houser;
Rep. Jo Ella Hoyer; Rep. Lynn Melton; Rep. Jim Minnix; Rep. KC Ohaebosim;
Rep. Pat Proctor; Rep. Virgil Weigel; Rep. Gary White

From: Brandi Baily, Sedgwick County Treasurer

Date: January 31, 2023

Re: House Bill No. HB 2148

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Committee on Transportation:

I am offering written support of House Bill No. HB 2148 which would also make changes to Kansas Statute(s) 8-135, 8-135c, 8-139, 8-143, 8-145, 8-145d, 8-167, 8-170, and 8-198. These changes will allow for a flat fee structure for motor vehicle transactions. Additionally, the bill will offer citizens a more transparent fee structure and provide much needed funding for Motor Vehicle offices at the local level.

Sedgwick County currently operates two Motor Vehicle offices in Wichita. There are a total of 81 employees dedicated to Tag operations. The main office provides title and registration work, consolidated mail services, IT support, bookkeeping, fleet, dealers, commercial motor vehicle services, title approving, and inventory support. The second office provides title and registration services and bookkeeping. For fiscal year 2022, the amount specifically subsidized in Sedgwick County was \$269,596.59. In 2022 Sedgwick County Commissioners authorized an 8% pay increase for county employees. This pay increase coupled with increased operating costs for postage, supplies, utilities, etc. will cost Sedgwick County over \$500,000 in subsidies for FY 2023. The existing fee structure has remained the same for nearly three (3) decades, while operating costs, equipment, employee wages and benefits have continued to rise. In addition, the volume of work has continued to increase during this same time period.

Over the years, The Kansas Department of Motor Vehicles has discontinued providing many services. They have pushed those tasks down to the County Treasurers' statewide. These added duties and services create significant expense and workload to the County. Despite the high volume of additional work, NO funding was passed along to compensate the County.

In order to meet the needs of our taxpayers it was necessary to hire ten (10) additional tag clerks, one (1) assistant tag manager, one (1) supervisor, and four (4) part time employees without any additional funding from the County or the State.

Some of the responsibilities handed down includes: the scanning of title documents, correspondence with local and out of state lenders and car dealerships, and reviewing/approving our own title work.

We expect, in the future, the State will hand down title printing responsibilities which will require us to print titles at the county level for some, if not all, applicants. All of these duties require personnel, work space and specific equipment. All of these commodities are extremely expensive.

I conclude by saying, I am in strong support of this bill. This proposed fee structure will assist us in meeting the continual growing cost of providing a vehicle title and registration service to our tax payers.

As an elected official, my goal is to provide accurate, efficient service to my constituents. I see this legislation as an opportunity to allow such service to continue uninterrupted even as our work load continues to increase. Please support this change.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brandi Baily". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brandi Baily
Sedgwick County Treasurer